



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **T-6**

August 8, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**WESTERN AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT
AWARD OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 2 AND 4
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with Transtech Engineers, Inc., to prepare plans, specifications and estimates, and provide construction assistance services for the Western Avenue Traffic Signal Synchronization Project and to establish the effective date following the Board of Supervisors' approval. The Agreement will be for a not-to-exceed fee of \$253,147.20 to be financed with Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Grant Funds and Proposition C Local Return Funds.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

We are recommending that your Board award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with Transtech Engineers, Inc., for the preparation of construction documents and to provide for construction support and as-built plan preparation for the proposed Western Avenue Project located in the Cities of Gardena, Lomita, Los Angeles, Rancho Palos Verdes and Torrance, and in the unincorporated County area in Athens and to establish the effective date following Board approval.

When construction documents and jurisdictional approvals are completed, tentatively scheduled for January 2003, we plan to return to your Board to adopt plans, specifications, and advertise for bids to construct the Project.

The recommended Consultant Services Agreement will provide design and construction support services for the Western Avenue Project in support of Public Works' Traffic Signal Synchronization Program. The Project includes Western Avenue from 111th Street to Summerland Avenue. As part of our efforts to proceed with traffic signal synchronization on Countywide arterials of regional significance, Public Works has successfully used consulting firms to perform design work of a similar nature on other Projects.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness as this Consultant Services Agreement will provide for the design of traffic signal synchronization improvements on Western Avenue using consultant expertise and will result in significant collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries. Completion of this Project will reduce congestion, vehicle emissions, vehicle operating costs, travel time, and improve motorist and pedestrian safety.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. The Project will be financed with Los Angeles County MTA 1997 Call for Projects, Proposition C Discretionary Grant Funds for the South Bay Traffic Signal Forum, and County matching funds included in the Fiscal Year 2002-03 Proposition C Local Return Fund Budget. The estimated total cost of the Project, including the design contract, is \$562,000. The MTA is providing approximately 89.5 percent of the funds and Public Works will finance the remaining 10.5 percent matching funds.

The recommended Agreement for design of the identified Project is for a not-to-exceed fee of \$253,147.20, including \$42,191.20 for unforeseen additional work which may arise during progress of the work. Additional work within this allowance will not be performed without prior written authorization from the Director of Public Works.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A standard agreement, in the form previously approved by County Counsel, will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring qualified displaced County employees will be included.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the Consultant Services Agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees, and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees, that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration of a contract award, Transtech Engineers, Inc., is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence Program participants for future employment.

Transtech Engineers, Inc., is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program).

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A finding of environmental impact is not required for Consultant Services Agreements for design services.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On March 28, 2002, a Request for Proposals was issued to 28 firms from a Public Works list of qualified consultants. Nine firms submitted proposals for review and evaluation. An evaluation committee, consisting of Public Works civil engineering staff, evaluated the proposals. These evaluations were based on technical expertise, proposed work plan, experience, personnel qualifications, and understanding of the work requirements. These evaluations were completed without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. Based on the review and evaluation of these proposals, the committee selected Transtech Engineers, Inc., as the best qualified firm. The negotiated fees have been reviewed by Public Works and are considered reasonable for the services provided.

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Participation by Community Business Enterprise (CBE) in the Project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good faith effort to utilize CBEs. Transtech Engineers, Inc., is aware of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and their proposed CBE participation is on file with Public Works. Public Works has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended Agreement, as this Agreement is for non-Proposition A services.

As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, this contract opportunity was listed on the Office of Small Business website.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects during the performance of the recommended consultant services.

CONCLUSION

At such time as this recommendation is approved, please return one copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Department of Public Social Services (GAIN Program)